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AGAWAM

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BUDGET PROPOSAL

Schools seeking increase of 3.25%

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

School Supt. William Sapelli recently unveiled a proposed budget for fiscal 2017 that will provide an additional \$1.3 million for the town's schools — a 3.25 percent increase.

Sapelli is proposing to increase School Department spending to \$42,365,720 from the current fiscal 2016 budget of \$41.03 million. This year's budget had represented a 2.7 percent increase over

the previous year. The proposed increase is smaller, however, than the \$2 million and \$1.8 million hikes in fiscal 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Sapelli presented his initial "draft" budget proposal during a meeting of the School Committee's budget and finance subcommittee Feb. 23. Other School Committee members and several city councilors also attended the meeting. Sapelli gave an overview of the budget's bottom line, and said more specifics would be pro-

vided at a later meeting with administrators from each school.

The largest chunk of the budget is salaries, which will account for 81 percent of spending, and are set to increase by \$1.6 million. Sapelli added that because collective bargaining contacts for five different employee units are expiring and must be renegotiated, he has built in a variable to account for possible salary increases.

The other budget increases total nearly \$129,000 and include:

- Athletic and transportation contract services: \$16,396
- Regular education transportation services: \$48,210
- Out-of-district tuition for non-special services (Lower Pioneer Valley Education Collaborative and vocational/technical schools): \$40,135
- Instructional technologies supplies (classroom presentation equipment): \$24,000

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PRIMARY ELECTION

Trump sweeps Agawam, state

Town Dems boost Sanders, but Clinton ekes out Mass. victory

By Michael J. Ballway
mballway@turley.com

Agawam followed an overwhelming state and national trend by giving Donald Trump a wide Republican mandate in Tuesday's presidential primary election.

Democratic voters in town echoed the choice of most small- or mid-sized towns outside the I-495 belt in backing Bernie Sanders, ensuring that he will pick up several delegates in Massachusetts despite Hillary Clinton's higher vote total in the state as a whole.

According to unofficial figures released Tuesday night by the town clerk's office, turnout in Agawam was 34 percent of registered voters, with about 10 percent more Democratic than Republican ballots pulled — 3,775 to 3,417. In the primary election, "unenrolled" voters could participate in whichever party's election they chose.

As in the statewide vote, Clinton-Sanders was a relatively close race, with the Vermont senator finishing with 1,943 votes, 52 percent, in Agawam, and the former secretary of state at 1,695, or 46

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A's for effort



From left, Madison Aubrey, Alec Ardolino and Cassandra Ayre were happy to receive their orange and white Academic A's at last week's School Committee meeting. Nearly half the senior class at Agawam High School was honored. Story and more photos, page 10. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Supt. asks for state help replacing cramped preschool

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

The School Committee took the first critical step toward building a new combined pre-K and kindergarten school last month when it authorized the school superintendent to apply for state funding assistance for its construction.

The new school would replace the current Early Childhood Center on Perry Lane, which provides educational services for about 200 children ranging in age from 3 to 5 years old. Kindergartners who attend the town's four elementary schools would also move to the new school.

At its Feb. 23 meeting, the committee approved a resolution authorizing School Super-

intendent William Sapelli to prepare a statement of interest to be submitted to the Massachusetts State Building Authority. The City Council also must authorize the statement before it can be submitted. The statement must be received no later than April 8 to be considered for this year.

MSBA is a quasi-independent government authority that provides funding assistance for local school construction projects. A new ECC has been a priority in Agawam for more than a decade; the current building on Perry Lane was supposed to be a temporary location when it opened in 1994. The structure was originally constructed as an office building.

Renovated and retrofitted in 2000 to encompass 8,000 square feet, the building is still inade-

quate as a school, particularly for a student population that continues to grow each year, administrators say.

An 11-member Feasibility Study Committee that includes the superintendent, the director of the ECC, School Committee members, and city councilors has been focusing on building a new center. The committee has been working on a design with Habeeb & Associates, a Norwell, Mass., architectural firm.

At a December committee meeting, Steve Habeeb, the firm's founder and an architect, said some districts have been successful in getting approval from the MSBA to build schools that combine pre-K and kindergarten classes.

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A major deficiency of the current Early Childhood Center, say educators, is limited classroom space for preschoolers. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK



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Roads, rails, regulations discussed at Chamber breakfast

By Michael J. Ballway
mballway@turley.com

Transportation issues dominated the discussion at a Chamber of Commerce breakfast featuring Agawam and West Springfield legislators last week.

In remarks at the West of the River Chamber's Legislative Breakfast, Agawam Mayor Richard Cohen mentioned two state road projects that he hopes will improve the traffic flow through Agawam, the reconstruction of the Morgan-Sullivan (Route 147) bridge and the reconfiguration of the Feeding Hills Center intersection, at routes 57 and 187. He also asked for the long-awaited extension of the Route 57 expressway into Southwick.

"I don't know how lucky we'll be, but I think it's something that needs to be done," he said. "The state promised it."

The West Springfield legislators, state Sen. James Welch and state Rep. Michael Finn, mentioned a prominent project east of the river — the reconstruction of the Interstate 91 viaduct through Springfield. The massive roadwork will make it harder for out-of-towners to reach Agawam and West Springfield, lawmakers said, and slower traffic on I-91 may cause commuters to take Route 5 or seek alternate routes



State Sen. Donald Humason, center, jokes with Agawam Mayor Richard Cohen, left, and state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga at the West of the River Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast last week. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

along local roads in the two towns.

Finn and Welch, both Democrats, also spoke in favor of an east-west commuter rail line, connecting Springfield with Worcester and Boston. The Republican lawmakers serving Agawam — state Sen. Donald Humason and state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga — were more skeptical.

"I just think it's prohibitively expensive versus the benefit we'd have in Western Mass.," said Humason.

He pointed out that a non-subsidized private company based in Springfield — Peter Pan Bus Co. — already provides east-west transportation. Any commuter rail would likely eat into the profits of Peter Pan, a local employer and taxpayer.

He hastened to note that he does not oppose studying the costs and benefits of rail service.

Boldyga took a similar stance.

"As taxpayers, we want to fund things that make money or at least break even," said Boldyga.

Boldyga said one of the pressures on business in Massachusetts is the size of the state government, which he said has grown from a \$30 billion budget to a \$39 billion budget just in the five years he has served on Beacon Hill. With the election in 2014 of Gov. Charlie Baker, said Boldyga, businesses now have an administration that will respond to their concerns about over-regulation and over-taxation.

Asked about Baker's plan to freeze state regulations, study them and come out with a plan to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses, Humason said the results of the governor's study are due out next month, but until then, "he hasn't shown his cards."

Humason framed the opioid addiction crisis — which has hit his own hometown of Westfield especially hard this year — as a problem for businesses and for society as a whole, not just for law enforcement and public health.

"Already, it's risen to the level of concern for employers," he said. "The only good thing about it reaching crisis level is that it's now okay to talk about it. It's not just an urban problem. It's not just the big cities."

The breakfast was held in the Carriage House at Storowton Tavern, on the grounds of the Big E in West Springfield. The West of the River Chamber of Commerce serves businesses in Agawam and West Springfield.

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Stefanie D. Aquilina, DMD

"Dr. Stefanie"

Dr. Aquilina will be our pediatric dental specialist at **Cornerstone Kids Dentistry**. A New York native, Dr. Aquilina studied biology at Cornell University, where she graduated with Distinction in All Subjects. She went on to receive her dental degree from the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine. At UConn, Dr. Aquilina was inducted into Omicron Kappa Upsilon National Dental Honor Society and received the Pierre Fauchard Academy Award, the Quintessence Award, the UConn Alumni Research Award, and the NIDCR Dental Student Research Award. Currently, she is nearing completion of her pediatric dentistry residency at UConn and CT Children's Medical Center, where she has undergone advanced training in pediatric medicine, emergency dental management, treatment of children with special health care needs, and sedation dentistry. Dr. Aquilina also holds certification in Pediatric Advanced Life Support.

When not in the office, Dr. Aquilina enjoys spending time with family and friends. She also likes staying active by practicing yoga, hiking and skiing.

Dr. Aquilina chose to become a pediatric dentist because she was fearful of the dentist as a child. She understands the importance of creating a comfortable environment and treating her patients with compassion, patience, and respect. She hopes to inspire children to achieve and maintain excellent oral health for life. **Dr. Aquilina is looking forward to opening the doors to Cornerstone Kids Dentistry this summer and meeting you and your kids!**

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Associate solicitor moves up to top legal job

By Michael J. Ballway
mballway@turley.com

A week after naming Town Solicitor Vincent Gioscia as the new town clerk, Mayor Richard Cohen announced another internal hire to take his place. Patrick Toney, who served as associate solicitor under Gioscia for the past six years, will now lead the town's Law Department.

He described his role as continuing the work of his former boss.

"I'm not planning to make any sweeping changes," Toney said this week. "Right now, my focus is on blight issues in Agawam, working in conjunction with the attorney general's office. That's my main concern."

Toney had helped draft the ordinance passed by the City Council last year that put pressure on the owners of blighted properties to clean them up. The new law empowers town government to seek court orders to place neglected properties in receivership. Out of about 30 properties initially identified as blighted, Toney said the town has been able to clean up four or five, either

through legal action or the threat of it.

Toney's promotion leaves a vacancy at associate solicitor, which will be filled by town resident Stephen Buoniconti, who represented Agawam in the state Senate from 2004 to 2010, and in the state House of Representatives from 2001 to 2004. He also served as assistant district attorney from 1996 to 2001. He had already begun work on Agawam matters earlier this week, Cohen said.

"He's stepping right in and jumping right in, which is what we wanted," Cohen said.

The solicitor and associate solicitor are paid a stipend and an hourly rate, Cohen said. Those numbers will be the same for the new hires.

Toney had previously served as a law clerk in the Agawam Law Department, 2006 to 2008. He is a graduate of the Western New England College School of Law. In addition to his work for the town, he has a private law practice in Hatfield.

Gioscia also maintained a private practice during his time as town solicitor. Cohen said Buoniconti will also serve both



Mayor Richard Cohen, left, stands with new Town Solicitor Patrick Toney and his predecessor, Vincent Gioscia, who was recently named town clerk. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

the town and private clients, and the "part-time" arrangement has worked during his tenure as mayor.

"They're both part-time, but we've been fortunate that they spend most of their time here and do their private work after,

Pasta dinner supports AHS cheerleaders

The Agawam High School cheerleaders will host a pasta dinner fundraiser at Take Five Restaurant on Monday, March 7. Dinner seatings are at 5:30 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children under 10. The menu includes chicken francaise, ziti marinara with meatballs, salad, rolls, and dessert. There will be a cash bar, basket raffle, 50-50 raffle and door prizes.

Tickets will be available at the door. Proceeds benefit the AHS cheerleading 2016-17 program. Take Five is at 944 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.

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Opinion

OUR VIEW

Hearts and darts

HEARTS ... to the modifications made by town officials and regional planners to the proposed Walnut Street Extension streetscape. Efforts to create an attractive “walkable downtown” out of what is now a series of strip malls were bound to result in conflict between planners, looking to cater to pedestrians, and merchants, who rely on automobile traffic for the vast majority of their current business. The two sides have compromised, nixing an ambitious plan to consolidate the parking at a central lot but using angled on-street parking to deliver the wide sidewalks and tree belts that the town wants. Town officials were still listening to landowners’ concerns at a meeting last week. With a few more meetings, Agawam should be able to craft a plan that everyone can agree on.

DART ... to the hiring process for Agawam’s new town clerk. There was only one candidate considered for the position, with no outside advertising of the vacancy. Legally, Mayor Richard Cohen didn’t do anything wrong — the appointment is his to make, and an internal posting is the only requirement. And this isn’t a reflection on Vincent Gioscia’s ability; the fact that he was the only candidate isn’t his fault, and there’s no reason to believe he won’t make a fine town clerk. But it would have been nice to know that the mayor sought out a genuine competition for the job, compared Gioscia’s resume with others, and determined that he was the best candidate out of a wide field of applicants.

HEARTS ... to the Agawam High School Academic A’s, and to the School Committee and school administrators who recognize scholarship every year. In a town that loves its high school sports as much as Agawam, giving out “varsity letters” for achievement in the classroom sends the message that those whose talents lie outside the sidelines are just as worthy of recognition.

HEART ... to the renewed focus among legislators and citizens, in the past month, on the scourge of heroin and opioid addiction in Western Massachusetts. In Agawam, awareness of the problem and commitment to combat it have manifested themselves in the founding of the Shane Foundation by Tracy Wilkie, who lost her son to addiction; and “Agawam (and Friends) Against Addiction,” a page on Facebook.com that’s fast becoming a support community, information clearinghouse and workshop on drug abuse issues in town. They and town officials have come together to sponsor an Agawam Addiction Forum in April. As a community, we have all been touched by drug addiction, whether we know it or not. We all have a role to play, as a community, in ending it.

What do you think? Send your letter to the editor to aan@turley.com.

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MAPLE SYRUP

Cold nights and warm days

It has been three years since we tapped our maple trees and boiled down the sap. I queried the kids as to whether they remembered and while the older one had, the younger one - who would have been 3 at the time - did not. My husband and I agreed that with the forecast of cold nights and warm days it was time to get out our supplies and engage in this near-spring ritual. Our backyard syruping days go back to the dating phase of our relationship. Enjoying home-steading activities together made me certain that he was a “keeper.” Alas, I digress...

Although the sap from most native species of maple can be used to make syrup, sugar maple sap is most desirable because it has a high sugar content. Sugar maples also bud out later than other species, a good feature considering sap from trees that have begun to break bud will produce syrup with an off-taste. The trees you tap should be at least 10 to 12 inches in diameter at 4.5 feet off the ground. One tap is sufficient for healthy maples that size, three for those over 25 inches in diameter and two for those that fall in between. Tapholes are usually made three to four feet from the ground for ease of maintenance. You’ll want to drill slightly upward 2.5 to 3 inches into healthy sapwood (not dark heartwood). Space taps evenly around the tree. The metal spout or spile is inserted into the taphole and set in place with a gentle tap. For small scale production, clean water or milk jugs with work great to collect the sap - simply cut a small hole to accommodate the spout. Over the years we have upgraded to plastic spiles that attach to tubing inserted into a hole in a five gallon food-safe plastic container. Whatever containers you use, be sure to make sure they are covered to prevent rain and debris from getting inside.

When the weather is perfect, i.e. warm days and below freezing nights, sap will flow. On really good days I remember dumping the gallon jug mid-afternoon to make room for more! With our new set-up we usually collect three to four gallons per tree on a good day. I thought it would be fun to introduce some math into our experiment, so my older daughter has been keeping a bar graph to keep track of the best trees in our yard.

IN THE GARDEN

ROBERTA MCQUAID
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS
COLUMNIST

Don’t let too many days go by before you begin to boil down your sap, though, or it will spoil. For our evaporator we rigged up a commercial stainless steel pan that fits over a stone outdoor barbecue that came with the property. It has worked out quite well for us. Whatever you decide to use, be wary of boiling indoors - I have heard horror stories of the sticky steam doing a great job of lifting kitchen wallpaper! As I recall, my urban sister-in-law once boiled sap down on a gas camp stove out on her deck. We weren’t talking hundreds of gallons here, but just enough to show my nephew how it’s done!

By week’s end we had 21 gallons of sap to boil down. While I pruned the raspberries it was fun to see the girls lugging sticks out of the woods to give to Daddy to feed the fire - of course with intermittent breaks alternating between reading and swinging on the playset. My husband started with about 15 gallons of sap in the pan and as the water evaporated added more - there is a careful balance between scorching and adding too much, not easily explained unless you’ve had the experience and monitored the candy thermometer. Finish your syrup by no longer adding sap and waiting until the syrup is 7.1 degrees higher than boiling water. Then, syrup can be filtered and stored in sterile containers at 185 degrees or higher for proper seal.

Forty-three gallons of sap are needed to make one gallon of syrup. It takes about seven hours of boiling to get that precious gallon if you use a rectangular pan two-feet wide x one-foot deep. Let these statistics be your guide so that you won’t get in over your head the first time you try it. Nothing is worse than having sap go to waste because you are too darned tired to boil into the wee hours of the night. Nothing is better, however, than the first bite of maple syrup-drenched blueberry pancakes the following morning!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 26 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food, as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to dfarmer@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

Let us know

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Advertising Representative John Baskin can be reached at jbaskin@turley.com or 413-786-7747, ext. 305.

Managing Editor Michael J. Ballway can be reached at mballway@turley.com or 413-786-7747, ext. 301.

Sports Editor David Forbes can be reached at dforbes@turley.com or 413-283-8393, ext. 237.

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PHONE
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Fax: 413.786.8457

EMAIL
Advertising Sales
John Baskin
jbaskin@turley.com
Managing Editor
Michael J. Ballway
mballway@turley.com
Office Manager
Teri Machia
aan@turley.com
Subscriptions
Charlann Griswold
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Info night next week for kindergarten parents

Agawam schools will host Parent Information Night, for parents of incoming kindergartners, at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 10, at Phelps School, 695 Main St., Agawam. Administrators will answer any questions parents have in regard to their child entering Agawam public schools. Hosted by the School Department.

Kindergarten enrollments are being taken now through the start of next school year from Agawam families with a child who be 5 years old by Sept. 1. Families should register directly with their neighborhood's assigned elementary school. Parents uncertain about what school serves their address should call the School Department Central Office at 413-821-0552.

All incoming kindergarten stu-

dents will be screened at their respective school. Assigned times will be provided to families once their registration forms have been submitted. Students only attend one date listed below.

There are four elementary schools in Agawam:

- Benjamin J. Phelps School, 689 Main St., Agawam; 413-821-0586. Screenings on April 12 and 13.
- Clifford M. Granger School, 31 S. Westfield St., Feeding Hills; 413-821-0580. Screenings on April 26 and 27.
- James Clark School, 65 Oxford St. (off South Street), Agawam; 413-821-0571. Screenings on March 28 and 29.
- Robinson Park School, 65 Begley St. (off Maple Avenue), Agawam; 413-821-0582. Screenings on April 5 and 6.

Garden Club meeting, swap set for Tuesday

The Agawam Garden Club will host its first meeting of the season at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 8. The meeting will take place in the Senior Center dining room, 954 Main St., Agawam.

"Digging" into its 82nd year, the meeting will include the introduction of officers and members as well as announcement of this season's programs. Annual member dues, which are \$15, will be collected and members will have the opportunity to sign up for events. A garden item swap will also take place. Members and non-members are welcome.

St. Pat Committee dinner is March 14

The Agawam St. Patrick Committee will host a corned beef dinner at 5 p.m. Monday, March 14. Tickets for the dinner, which will be held at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., are \$12 per person. The night's events will include Irish music by Chris Hamel and Irish step dancing provided by the Cassin Academy of Irish Dance.

To purchase tickets, call Laurie O'Connell at 413-519-1071 or any committee member.

For information on becoming a member of the committee, call Vera Conway at 413-786-3247.

Community forum on addiction set for April 13

Residents are invited to an "Agawam Addiction Forum" scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, at the Roberta G. Doering School Auditorium, 68 Main St., Agawam. An open house will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. followed by the forum from 7 to 9 p.m.

In addition to resources, information and handouts, the evening will include a meet and greet with

specialists, professionals and speakers. Featured guests will include Tracy Wilkie of the Shane Foundation and Kristin Trauschke of Agawam Against Addiction.

A question-and-answer period will take place with substance abuse specialists and speakers.

For more information, visit Facebook.com/groups/AgawamAgainstAddiction.

Cultural Council to meet March 15

The Agawam Cultural Council will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The meeting is open to the public.

A great opportunity exists with the Agawam Cultural Council for anyone with an interest in providing diverse cultural events for the town. This all-volunteer organization, appointed by the mayor and funded, in

part, by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, is looking for new members. The Agawam Cultural Council is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

AHS '76 reunion to be held in July

The Agawam High School Class of 1976 will hold its 40-year reunion Saturday, July 16, at 4 p.m. It will take place at the Summit View Banquet House, 555 Northampton St., Holyoke. Class

members are asked to save the date and spread the word. For more information, visit the Facebook page "Agawam High School Class of '76" or contact Jon Lund at targink@yahoo.com

Track work to start this month

Groundbreaking on the athletic facilities project at Agawam High School is expected in the coming weeks, weather permitting, Mayor Richard Cohen said this week.

"The contracts are all signed, everything has been done. You'll see activity out there right away," the mayor said Monday.

Workers were on site at the high school this week to install the construction office trailer for Lupachino & Sullivan Inc. of Bloomfield, Conn., and set up temporary fencing. According to a schedule released by the mayor's office, the project is expected to be completed in August.

The \$7.95 million project will convert the football stadium to artificial turf, with new bleachers and a new all-weather running track. Other improvements on campus will include new outdoor tennis and basketball courts, new practice fields behind the stadium and a moving the varsity baseball field to the rear of the school. Indoors, the locker rooms will also receive major upgrades.

The project will be funded by \$1.035 million from the town's Community Preservation Act fund, with the remaining nearly \$7 million to come from bonding, ultimately supported by a higher property tax rate.

Resource fair for young families

The Agawam Family and Community Program will host its annual Community Fair from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 5, at the Agawam High School cafeteria. Participating exhibitors will include community support programs, family programs, sports clubs, local preschools, the Agawam Public Library, summer camp providers and more. Admission is free.

"Our target audience is any family with children birth to age 10," said Michelle Connery, outreach coordinator. "This is a great way for families to learn about so many great programs and services in our area. Most of our local preschools will be on hand for families to ask questions, which can be a huge time saver for busy families."

From 9 a.m. to noon, Scattered

Seeds will be onsite with its tree bus, followed by Storytime with the Agawam Public Library at 10 a.m. and a demonstration by the LHQ Dance Force at 11 a.m.

Free family activities at the event will include MYCHIP, a child identification program; face painting; and a story walk featuring "The Napping House" by Audrey and Don Wood. There will also be a Teddy Bear Health Clinic where all teddy bears, dolls and stuffed friends will receive a check-up from the Agawam town nurse.

Best Life Food Ministry will be collecting non-perishable food items for local families.

For event information, contact Connery at 413-821-0597 or email mconnery@agawampublicschools.org. The school is at 760 Cooper St., Agawam.

Acrylic artist to give demonstration

The Tobacco Valley Artists Association will hold its monthly meeting and art demonstration at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. Featured artist Carla Lindsey will demonstrate the use of acrylic medium in creating a landscape painting.

Lindsey earned a BFA from the Hartford Art School and went onto earn her MFA from Western Connecticut State University in 2008. Drawing upon the heavy emphasis on landscape in her education, she depicts trees onto her canvas that take on a more personal meaning, and send a powerful message to the viewer.

She has taught at the Silvermine Guild Arts Center in New Canaan, Conn., and at Flanders Nature Center in Woodbury, Conn. She has worked as both a freelance artist and figure model.

Lindsey is an active participant in the Hartford Open Studios in November, and has been part of many art shows and exhibitions. She has also had the pleasure of working with numerous well-known contemporary artists throughout Connecticut.

Working as an artist has helped Lindsey spread the word about her great-great-grandfather, folk artist Ellis Ruley. She and her family are working on a documentary based on his work and the impact he has had on relatives, ancestors and his native town of Norwich, Conn. For more information, visit carlasspiritualart.com.

Tobacco Valley Artists Association comprises members throughout Connecticut and Massachusetts. Regular meetings and artist demonstrations are held on the third Wednesday of the month. All are welcome.

'Night Out' to benefit Women's Club

The GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club will host "Thursday Night Therapy — Ladies Night Out" from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, March 31. Proceeds from the event will benefit the club's educational scholarships, programs and projects.

Highlights include a pasta bar and appetizers, raffle prizes, a 50-50 raffle, wine toss, unique vendor

products, free massages, free psychic readings and more.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. They may be purchased from any club member, by contacting Danielle Light at 413-342-1828 or dlightAJWC@gmail.com, and via PayPal at www.agawamgfwc.com/events.html.

All are invited.

DEATH NOTICES

Codding, Robert P.
Died Feb. 22
Funeral Feb. 29
Curran-Jones Funeral Home
Agawam

Keating, Virginia M.
Died Feb. 23
Funeral Feb. 29
Sampson Family Chapels
Springfield

Mortenson, Pauline J.
Funeral March 3
Agawam Center Cemetery
Agawam Funeral Home

Shea, Katherine M.
Died Feb. 21
Funeral March 5
Curran-Jones Funeral Home
Agawam

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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663 MAIN STREET

ELECTION ■ from page 1

percent. Sanders won majorities of more than 50 votes in three precincts and won by thinner margins in four others. Clinton won Precinct 8, the southeastern corner of town, by one vote.

Among neighboring towns, Southwick, Westfield and West Springfield all voted for Sanders; Springfield and Longmeadow voted for Clinton.

Clinton was the overall winner in Massachusetts, 50.3 percent to 48.5 percent, and on “Super Tuesday” as a whole, winning seven states to Sanders’ three.

Trump was the overwhelming choice of Republican voters in all eight Agawam and Feeding Hills precincts, with more than twice his nearest rival’s total at every polling place, and three times the second-place candidate in all but one.

Trump’s 1,814 votes were 53 percent of Republican ballots cast in town. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio finished a distant second in the Agawam vote, with 522. At third place in town was Ohio Gov. John Kasich, with 499. Both account for about 15 percent of the GOP vote. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz polled 402, or 12 percent.

All of Agawam’s neighboring cities and towns gave Trump about 50 percent of the Republican vote, except Longmeadow, where the New York real estate developer polled at 38 percent, still good enough for first place.

In the statewide race, Trump finished with 49 percent, Kasich in second with 18 percent and Rubio a close third, also with 18 percent. Cruz — who won Texas and Oklahoma, the only March 1 elections that Trump did not win — polled under 10 percent in the state as a whole.

In addition to Massachusetts, Oklahoma and Texas, other states holding elections on “Super Tuesday” included Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Tennessee, Vermont and Virginia.

Alaska and Minnesota also held Republican caucuses, voting for Cruz and Rubio, respectively.

Eight Agawam residents voted in the Green-Rainbow Party primary, with four votes for Sedinam Curry of California, two for Jill Stein of Lexington, Mass., and two write-ins.

Sixteen voters pulled the United Independent Party ballot, which had no candidates on it.



From left, Bella McGregor, 11, Madeline McGregor, 9, and Alexis Hurley, 9, sell baked goods and Tupperware as a fundraiser for the Granger School PTO and fourth grade class at the Precinct 2 polling station on Tuesday. Bella is a student at Doering School; Madeline and Alexis are students at Granger.



Poll workers Sandy Lynch, left, and Cindy Porowski check in voters at Precinct 2, Granger School, in Feeding Hills on Tuesday. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Sold at a higher price

8. Instill fear

13. Can be domesticated

14. Oohed and ____

15. Make too simple

19. Plutonium

20. Necessary for breathing

21. Make happy

22. Mythological bird

23. A baglike structure in a plant or animal

24. Put on ____

25. Type of dough

26. Blushed

30. Celestial object

31. Point ____ National Seashore

32. Purplish red

33. Towards the mouth or oral region

34. Portuguese musical genre

35. Steals

38. Acts insincerely

39. City in Belarus

40. Anticipates

43. Paris airport

44. Deal with

45. No (Scottish)

47. Opens lock

48. Central parts

49. Sheep disease

50. Indicates position

51. Doing many things at once

55. Khoikhoi peoples

57. Informal alliance between countries

58. Long poems

59. The state of being poorly illuminated

CLUES DOWN

1. Portico

2. Delicacy

3. Punish with an arbitrary penalty

4. Household god (Roman)

5. Public television station

6. ____ Lilly, drug company

7. Degraded

8. Free from danger

9. Low bank or reef of coral

10. Exclamation of surprise

11. Lies down in rest

12. Give an education to

16. Provides

17. Fat from a pig

18. Belonging to a thing

22. Branches of a bone

25. Having a cheerless aspect or disposition

27. Edema (archaic)

28. Bo __, “10”

29. Unfledged or nestling hawk

30. Surrenders

32. Type of dessert

34. Planted with trees

35. Washington town

36. Listen in

37. Inwardly

38. Chinese province

40. Garrison

41. Converts thermal energy to mechanical work

42. Holy people

44. Lowest point between two peaks

46. Boundaries

48. Utter obscenities

51. ____ and cheese

52. Member of the cuckoo family

53. Type of microscope

54. ____ and Barbie

56. Michigan

BUDGET ■ from page 1

Special services savings

Although the proposed increases total more than \$1.7 million, there are two significant reductions in the special services area. Special services supplies have been reduced by nearly \$80,000, but the largest decrease — \$362,653 — is for special services tuitions.

“There has been a savings in having more special services programs in-house instead of sending these students out of the district,” explained Sapelli. He added that some of these placements can cost \$60,000 to \$100,000 per student.

Sapelli said there also have been some savings because students have “aged out,” so the district no longer needs to provide services to those students. But he cautioned that this also can work in reverse if more students requiring these services move into town.

Another reason for a reduction in the special services supplies budget is that last year the district had to contract out for specialized services — such as occupational therapists and physical therapists — because of retirements.

“We had to absorb the cost of finding outside agencies to provide these services,” said Sapelli. “Now, because we’ve been able to hire people for those positions, the cost for outside services has decreased.”

State reduces town’s education spending

Sapelli also noted that while the school budget accounts for nearly 52 percent of government spending in Agawam, the town budget’s actual contribution is closer to 27 percent, because of state aid. He said Agawam is expected to receive just over \$19 million in Chapter 70 funds from the state government.

That state aid figure is expected to climb to \$23 million next year, said Sapelli. The state also mandates for each town a minimum spending level on education, which will likely be approximately \$42 million, he said.

In addition to the direct funding the town government provides, it also contributes other services to the schools — such as snowplowing, custodial services, and school nurses — that aren’t included within the school budget.

Sapelli added that the number of grants the district receives is another reason he could keep the proposed fiscal 2017 budget “within reason.” He also noted that while there are no large increases to purchase supplies, that might not hold for future budgets.

“We’re okay for this year, but we may need an increase next year,” he said. Several years ago the school budget’s supply account had a significant increase because outdated textbooks needed to be replaced and the district needed to make technology improvements.

Other potential budget problems that may be looming on the horizon could come from Boston. He said there has been some discussion about changes to the formula for determining local education aid under Chapter 70, especially if the cap is lifted on the number of charter schools. Gov. Charlie Baker is a strong proponent of increasing the number of charter schools.

“If Gov. Baker is successful in getting the legislature to lift the cap, that could hurt,” said Sapelli, adding that he considers charter schools to be similar to private schools, but with public money. “If this were to happen, charter schools and public schools would be fighting for the same money.”

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Congregational Church news, upcoming events

The public is invited to attend the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., “a place to call home — a people to call family.” Worship service is at 10 a.m. Sunday mornings with a children’s message, church school and fellowship and coffee hour following. Playgroup meets Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and is open to the public. It follows the Agawam public schools schedule.

Sunday, March 13: Worship Service, church school, coffee fellowship hour. Nick and Marie Zucco Potluck Luncheon after church.

Wednesday, March 16: 7 p.m., Bible Study with Pastor Greg.

Saturday, March 19: 7:30 a.m., Men’s Ministry meeting at Bobbie J’z; 9 a.m.-2 p.m., church Tag Sale. Open to all.

Sunday, March 20: Palm Sunday with Choir Cantata, God’s Girls Growing (G3), church school, coffee hour, Faithful Friends.

Holy Week: Noon, Monday through Friday, services sponsored by the Agawam Clergy Association taking place

at Sacred Heart Church, Feeding Hills. Local pastors will conduct the services with free lunch following. All are invited.

Monday, March 21: 4 p.m., Loaves & Fishes meeting.
Thursday, March 24: Maundy Thursday Service, 7 p.m. All are invited.

Friday, March 25: 9 a.m., newspaper collation.
Sunday, March 27: Easter Sunday Service with Easter egg hunt for the kids.

Monday, March 28: 7 p.m., Women’s Ministry meeting.
Wednesday, March 30: 7 p.m., Prayer Time with Pastor Greg.

Pastor Greg E. Dawson is available for prayer after the service. The church offers many programs, special family activities, trips, picnics and more. Newcomers are welcome and members of the community are invited to participate in all church events. For more information, call the church office at 413-786-7111. Regular office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until noon.

Easter musical scheduled for March 27 at Bethany

The Bethany Choir and Orchestra will present the Easter musical, “On a Hill Too Far Away” in two presentations Easter Sunday, March 27, at 9 a.m. and again at 10:45 a.m. Changing from the “Golgotha” drama presentations of recent past, the choir and orchestra will present the story of Calvary, recognizing the cross as central to Christianity. Along with the choir and orchestra, there will be an enhanced DVD visual throughout the musical.

Because of the thrust of “On a Hill Too Far Away,” it has been moved from Palm Sunday weekend to Easter Sunday

morning. In anticipation of the crowd for the two presentations, the musical will also be shown live in the Lighthouse Auditorium, providing an overflow venue.

All are invited to celebrate Resurrection Sunday at Bethany Assembly of God in Agawam. The church is at the corner of Route 57 and Main Street. There will be signing for the deaf, in the main sanctuary only, and a nursery for infants will be available.

For more information, visit www.bethany-ag.org, or call the church office at 413-789-2930.



The building housing the Early Childhood Center on Perry Lane was originally constructed as an office building. School officials have said the building’s design and size don’t match current needs. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

EARLY ■ from page 1

Robin Fernandes, the ECC’s director, and the elementary school principals have said combining preschool and kindergarten classes would allow teachers at both those levels to collaborate. A combined school also would provide a more effective delivery of curriculum — especially for preschool students who will transition into kindergarten.

Fernandes said the statement of interest is “a concrete measure to move forward” on a new ECC.

“It’s exciting to see many discussions and strategic planning meetings go into action,” she said. “This is the first step in what will be a long process — but it’s all very exciting from my perspective and for the staff who currently work at ECC.”

Cost \$8M to \$12M

The estimated cost to construct the new school is between \$8 million and \$12 million. The MSBA could reimburse the town up to 57.7 percent of that cost. According to Habeeb, the approval process could take up to five years. While the town might be able to build the school sooner if it funded the entire cost through a bond, the annual bonding limit is \$10 million.

According to the MSBA, it won’t issue any decisions for potential projects until it has received and reviewed all statements. Depending on the number of school districts that apply for reimbursement, the MSBA said the review process could take several months.

A statement of interest allows districts to inform the MSBA about deficiencies that may exist in a local school facility and how they impede a district’s educational program. Among the deficiencies cited in the Agawam’s statement are:

- Preschool classroom space is limited, does not meet the minimum square footage requirements, and lacks support program needs and technology.
- There is no space available for staff meetings and for confidential meetings such as those for students on individual education plans, or IEPs.
- Nutritious snacks and lunches cannot be provided to students or staff members because the existing preschool lacks a cafeteria.
- Occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech and language services are conducted in the preschool’s hallways.

Additionally, because of overcrowded conditions at the ECC, two preschool classrooms were moved to Granger and Clark elementary schools. This displaced regular elementary teachers from their classrooms, forcing them to share space with other programs at those schools.

The SOI resolution also states that there is insufficient classroom space at the four elementary schools. This has

forced teachers to travel from classroom to classroom with carts to teach science, art and music classes. As the number of students with autism continues to grow, more classrooms are required at the elementary schools.

Combining kindergarten classrooms with preschool classrooms in a freestanding building would create more space to house both regular and special education programs.

Several years ago, the town had planned to include early childhood classrooms in a new high school, but three requests to the MSBA for financial assistance to build it were denied. Land in front of the junior high school on Springfield Street, as well as five acres of land on Mill Street, are among several potential locations identified as sites for the new Early Childhood Center.

Last month, the town also submitted a statement of interest for assistance in replacing two aging boilers at Doering School. That statement was submitted to the MSBA’s accelerated repair program.

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Public Safety

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 320 calls for service from Feb. 22 to Feb. 28. The department recorded one arrest in its public log. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Wednesday, Feb. 24

Artur Lesniowski, 25, of 106 Feeding Hills Road, Westfield, was arrested on charges of operating a motor vehicle with license suspended subsequent offense, attaching plates to a motor vehicle, receiving stolen property over \$250, uninsured motor vehicle, unregistered motor vehicle, no inspection sticker, not in possession of registration, not in possession of license, and number plate violation to conceal identification.

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 42 EMS calls from Feb. 16 to Feb. 22, and the following emergency response calls.

On Feb. 16 at 4:42 a.m., the department responded to Walnut Street Ext. for water problem, other.

On Feb. 16 at 7:41 a.m., the department responded to Independence Road for public service assistance, other.

On Feb. 16 at 9 a.m., the department responded to Red Fox Drive for public service assistance, other.

On Feb. 16 at 12:47 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Feb. 16 at 6:39 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for alarm system activation, no fire — unintentional.

On Feb. 17 at 9:35 a.m., the department responded to N. Westfield Street for water or steam leak.

On Feb. 17 at 4:30 p.m., the department responded to Barry Street for smoke scare, odor of smoke.

On Feb. 17 at 6:57 p.m., the department responded to Riviera Drive for cooking fire, confined to container.

On Feb. 18 at 6:21 p.m., the department responded to Albert Street for water or steam leak.

On Feb. 19 at 8:48 a.m., the department responded to Cleveland Street for alarm system activation, no fire — unintentional.

On Feb. 19 at 9:14 a.m., the department responded to Paul Revere Drive for lockout.

On Feb. 19 at 2:44 p.m., the department responded to Leonard Street for public service.

On Feb. 20 at 8:18 a.m., the department responded to Bradford Drive for water problem, other.

On Feb. 20 at 9:15 a.m., the department responded to Meadowbrook Manor for public service.

On Feb. 20 at 1:15 p.m., the department responded to North Street Ext. for water problem, other.

On Feb. 20 at 6:44 p.m., the department responded to Brookline Avenue for lockout.

On Feb. 21 at 1:04 p.m., the department responded to School Street for good intent call, other.

On Feb. 22 at 1:40 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for fire, other.

Criminal Defense

413-746-9800

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Youth

Art Month display to feature local students

The Agawam Public Library will feature the artwork of students of Agawam in celebration of Youth Art Month in March. Students from the elementary, Roberta G. Doering and Agawam Junior High schools will have their artwork displayed throughout the library, at 750 Cooper St., Agawam.

The artwork of students in kindergarten through grade 6 will be showcased on the gallery walls, double glass case and lower level cases, as well as the lower level bookshelves. Media will include clay and papier-mache sculptures, small and large weavings, as well as a variety of drawings, paintings and mixed media artwork. Junior high students will exhibit 2-D work on the lower level walls.

All are invited to stop by the library during regular open hours, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For information on how to display artwork in the library, contact Adult Services librarian Cher Collins at 413-789-1550, ext. 8851, or email ccollins@agawamlibrary.org.

CAMPUS NOTES

Clark University: Alexandra L. Jeannotte, of Agawam, attained first honors for the fall semester; Mary I. Molloy and Emma G. Philips, of Agawam, attained second honors for the fall semester.

Emmanuel College: Cian O'Sullivan, of Agawam, was named to the fall semester dean's list.

Massachusetts Virtual Academy: Jared Burleson, of Feeding Hills, achieved honor roll status in the second quarter of the school year.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute: Dominick Groux, of Agawam; and Cameron Czerpak and Emily Walters, of Feeding Hills, were named to the fall semester dean's list.

Rochester Institute of Technology: Ryan Castonguay, of Agawam, was named to the fall semester dean's list.

Roger Williams University: David Balise, Joshua Jacques, and Allison Weiner, of Feeding Hills, were named to the fall semester dean's list.

St. Lawrence University: Page L. Phillips, of Feeding Hills, is participating in an off-campus study abroad program in Austria during the spring semester. She was also named to the fall semester dean's list and was inducted into the school's English honorary society, the Irving Bacheller Society.

Southern New Hampshire University: Kristina Karrasch and Abbey Otto, of Agawam; and Alexander Paleologopoulos and Patricia Taylor, of Feeding Hills, were named to the fall semester president's list. Haley Kozlak and Samantha Saracino, of Agawam, were named to the fall semester dean's list.

'Puss in Boots' at Red Door



The Red Door Theatre will continue its Tiny Tales season with "Puss in Boots" on Saturday, March 12, at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Tiny Tales is an audience-participatory performance series specifically designed for children between the ages of 3 and 8. Tickets are \$6. Reservations are recommended. For tickets, call the Red Door Theatre at 413-789-2026 or visit reddoortheatre.com for more information on the little theater on the hill at 152 S. Westfield St., Feeding Hills. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Agawam High School Counseling bulletin

College acceptances

Nicole Covill — Husson University, University of Saint Joseph; Ava Ferrendino — Westfield State University; Troy Gallerani — University of Vermont; Brenna Gompper — Bay Path University, Elms College, Westfield State University; Lilia Iovenco — Westfield State University; Robert Johnston — University of Vermont; Hannah Kresock — Clark University; Rachel Lapponese — University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Westfield State University; Gabrielle Lescarbeau — Hofstra University, Manhattan College, Saint John's University; Noah Lovotti — Western New England University; Diane McGregor — Emmanuel College, University of Hartford, Worcester State; Cassidy Milliken — University of Vermont; Victoria Nascembeni — Springfield College; Alex Peterson — Clarkson University, Hofstra University, Western New England University; Natalie Rau — Springfield College, Western New England University; Paul Rivera — University of Rhode Island, University of Vermont; Peter Rochford — Holyoke Community College; Keith Ruby — Westfield State University; Austin Sabadosa — Eastern Connecticut State University, Roger Williams University, Siena College, Suffolk University, Westfield State University; Amy Stefanik — Holyoke Community College; Victoria Thomas — Elms College, University of Saint Joseph.

Special interest programs

The Hartford National College Fair, held at the Connecticut Convention Center, will be held on Wednesday, March 30, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Thursday, March 31, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. This is a great opportunity to meet with college admission representatives from across the country. In order to make the best use of their time at the fair, students should register ahead of time to be issued a barcode that will be scanned by the admissions representatives. Visit gotomyncf.com/Registration and click on the orange "Register Now" button. Attention current seniors. If you are interested in a career path that involves Information Technology and don't have plans to attend college in the fall, Tech Foundry might be the perfect place for you. Students with a strong desire to kick start their career in the IT field will benefit from a free 14-week program that includes assistance with job placement. If you have specific questions, visit thetechfoundry.org

Scholarship information

Students should see their counselor or visit the websites for more information or an application: 2016 Pioneer Valley Chapter/Co-operative Credit Union Association Scholarship Program; College Club of Springfield; Massachusetts Association of Women in Law Enforcement; Mark Bavis Leadership Foundation; Dunkin' Donuts Scholarship Program; State Farm Good Neighbor Scholarship; The Holyoke Community College Foundation; The Professional Women in Construction — Connecticut Chapter; Springfield Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Matthews Massachusetts Memorial Fund; Westfield River Valley Detachment; The Pascal A. Deliso Scholarship; Italian Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts; Valley Press Club; Edward P. Boland Scholarship; American College Foundation; Dolly Lancaster Scholarship; Massachusetts Broadcasters Association Student Broadcaster Scholarship; Jewish Endowment Fund; Rebekah Assembly of Massachusetts; Pioneer Valley Women's Running Club; Warrior Thunder Foundation; 2016 Student View Scholarship Program; Holyoke Credit Union Scholarship Program; Hood Milk Sportsmanship Scholarship; Red Pine Scholarship; Yawkey Scholars Program; The Phillips Scholarship Fund; The Michael Yasick ADHD Scholarship by Shire; Big Y Scholarship; John F. Kennedy Library Foundation; Skidmore College Filene Music Scholarship Competition; Westfield-West Springfield Elks Lodge 1481; Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps; Abbott & Fenner Business Consultants; Jack Kent Cooke Foundation; American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship; GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship; The Henry David Thoreau Foundation; Aspiring Fashion Professional Scholarship; Aspiring Animation Professional Scholarship; Aspiring Nurse Scholarship; Massachusetts Association of Women in Law Enforcement.

Meritaid.com: On this free website, students can complete a profile and then access the college merit scholarships that match their profile. This organization does not sell its email lists to third parties. The site includes a comprehensive directory of merit scholarships and academic scholarships across the country.

Did You Know: Boulder, Colo., has been named the "Best College Town" in America.

Library joins 'Babies Need Words' project

By the age of 4, children in low-income homes will have heard 30 million fewer words than their more advantaged peers. The "Babies Need Words Every Day: Talk, Read, Sing, Play" campaign sponsored by the Association of Library Services to Children is helping to bridge this word gap. The Agawam Public Library has joined other libraries and community partners across the country in a simple, powerful initiative to boost children's language acquisition and brain development.

"Research continues to prove that by investing in high-quality, early-childhood education, communities can, over the long term, reduce crime and improve health and education outcomes for their residents," said Pamela Weingart, youth services librarian at the Agawam Public Library. "The 'Babies Need Words Every Day: Talk, Read, Sing, Play' campaign is just one more low-cost, high-impact way that libraries can reach parents and caregivers of all backgrounds and offer ideas and support for raising children who are ready for school."

To support this program, the Agawam Public Library offers a variety of story times for different age groups. Patrons no longer need to register for any of the story times offered at the library. Lapsit story time for babies birth through 18 months is offered Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. This program offers stories, songs, rhymes and sign language for babies and their caregivers. Toddler Time is for babies 19 to 36 months. This program is offered Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. This program consists of stories, rhymes, music and movement for toddler and their caregivers.

The Agawam Public Library offers many other programs for families. For full program listings, visit www.agawamlibrary.org or call 413-789-1550, ext. 3.

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Owner of The B's Hive

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Legals

LEGAL AD AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 6:00 PM**, at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Ditomaso for work to be performed on 306 South Westfield Street subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of **Henry A. Kozloski**, Chairman
Agawam Conservation
Commission

3/3/16

HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x235.

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Leo the Lion chosen as mascot for Children's Room

Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders weren't the only election winners in Agawam this week. In balloting that wrapped up Monday, Feb. 29, Leo the Lion was tapped as the new mascot of the Agawam Public Library's Children's Room.

Leo garnered 168 votes, defeating Murphy the Monster, with 151, and Moe the Mouse, with 104. Voting was Feb. 11-29 in the Children's Room. Library patrons of all ages were encouraged to participate — even Mayor Richard Cohen stopped by to cast his vote.

Leo the Lion will be attending children's programs at the library. Leo will also join the librarians as they visit schools and childcare centers to promote library services and programs.

Moe the Mouse and Murphy the Monster will soon be available for patrons to check out of the library with their library card.

Poetry contest open to all area students

The Agawam Public Library will host a Student Poetry Contest beginning April 1. Students in grades 1 through 12 are eligible to submit up to two poems. Submissions will be taken at the library at 750 Cooper St., Agawam, Friday through Saturday, April 1-30. Poems must meet contest guidelines. Guidelines are available at the library and on the website, agawamlibrary.org/children.

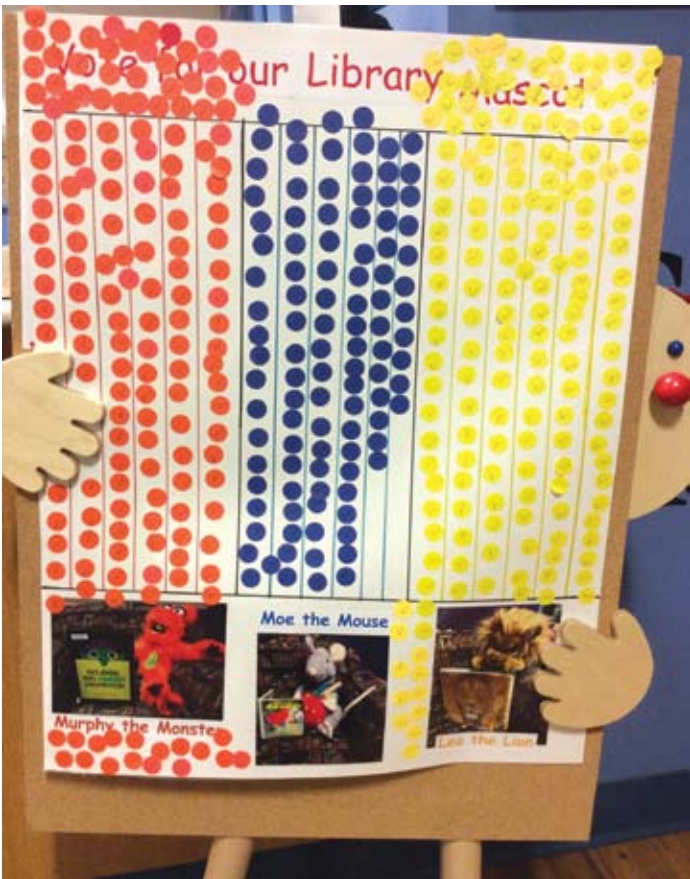
Poems will be judged based on spelling, grammar, style and presentation, impact, and originality. Contest winners will be announced May 14. All entries become the property of the Agawam Public Library. For more information visit agawamlibrary.org/children, or call 413-789-1550, ext. 3.

More youth news on next page

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.



Children's Librarian Pam Weingarten holds Leo the Lion, winner of the mascot election last month at the Agawam Public Library. Leo defeated Murphy the Monster and Moe the Mouse. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

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AHS seniors recognized for academic excellence

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

For the 16th consecutive year, seniors at Agawam High School received “Academic A’s” to honor their academic accomplishments.

With relatives and friends looking on, 155 students — nearly half of the 327 students who comprise the Class of 2016 — were recognized at the Feb. 23 School Committee meeting. Academic A’s — similar to sports letters — feature a large white “A” trimmed in orange with a yellow lamp of knowledge in the center.

These high honors are presented annually to students who have maintained a 3.0 (B) cumulative grade-point average during their freshman, sophomore, and junior years, as well as the first semester of their senior year.

Former School Committee member Susan Pettazzoni, who served on the committee from 1992 to 2006, created the Academic A’s. She wanted to see Agawam students recognized for their academic skills — just as other students are honored for their athletic skills.

AHS Principal Steve Lemanski presented the awards as each student’s name was read out loud. Students unable to attend the formal presentation also received recognition by having their names read at the



Members of the Class of 2016 line up in the auditorium of the Doering Middle School as they wait for their names to be called to receive their Academic A’s. Nearly half the class received this award. TURLEY PUBLICATION PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK

presentation ceremony.

After receiving their certificates and Academic A’s, students went through a receiving line that included School Committee members, school administrators and city councilors. They were joined by state Sen. Donald Humason and state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga.



Friends and classmates, from left, Jenna Bonasoni, Sabrina Budington, Marino Cipriani, Kayla Casamento, and Troy Gallerani are all smiles after receiving their Academic A’s.



Holding their Academic A’s high are Melissa Schuler, Rachel Jurkowski and Daphne Gauthier.



Robert Johnston, the student representative to the School Committee, took a break from his duties to pose with his friend Kayla Crean after both received their Academic A’s at the Feb. 23 committee meeting.



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Stump! trivia quiz

Academic A's 2015-16

Victoria Abramchuk, Martie Faye Agravante, Paige Alves, Alexander Amato, Alec Ardolino, Emma Armfield, Madison Aubrey, Cassandra Ayre, Cody Baker, Allyson Balboni, John Baranov, Joseph Barber, Cameron Barrington, Tyler Barrington, Jenna Beach, Maggie Belanger, Rachel Bonafilia, Jenna Bonasoni, Kyle Bosse, Kristin Brouillette, Sabrina Budington, Taylor Budreau, Alan Burlachenko, Annelise Bustillo, Laura Cafaro, Kayla Casamento, Samantha Charette, Renata Chebanova, Marino Cipriani, Geoffrey Circosta, Joseph Ciurleo, Matthew Clarke, Matthew Conway, Nicholas Corbett, Kellie Cormier, Nicole Covill, Kayla Crean, Meghan D'Amours, Kayla DeBarros, Maggie DeForge, Michael DeStefano, Richard Dolan, Christophori Dowd, Morgan Durocher, Nicholas Fenney, Ryan Feyre, Jordan Frazee, Madison Gabel, Danielle Gagnon, Troy Gallerani, Abigail Garner, Brendan Garvey, Daniel Garvey, Daphne Gauthier, Angela Gnall, Brenna Gomppper, Katelynn Gordoner, Grace Greene, Alexander Gut, Thomas Howard V, Tyler Howe, Lilia Iovenco, Madalyn Izoita, Alexa Janicki, Robert Johnston, Austin Jones, Madeline Joyal, Rachel Jurkowski, Sean Kamenelis, Sara Kiley, Benjamin King, Taylor Kozel, Hannah Kresock, Alexis Kupiec, Amberly La Branche, Elizabeth LaCroix, Rebecca LaCroix, Justin Laflamme, Conner Lajoie, Brian LaMotte, Rachel Laponese, Brandon Ledoux, Gabrielle Lescarbeau, Sarah Levkulich, Jessica Lingenberg, Steven Ludtke, Connor Mahoney, Todd Maniscalchi, Savannah Marcotte, Katie Martin, Jaime Martinez, Frank Mastromatteo, Diane McGregor, Margaret Mendoza, Cassidy Milliken, Karly Milne, Christie Mirski, Joseph Moccio, Bryanna Montalvo, Julianne Moriarty, Nathan Morrie, John Morris, Lillian Mosiychuk, Julia Nadolny, Victoria Nascembeni, Joshua Neal, Tara Negrucci, Vita Nesen, Christopher Newton, Maureen O'Connor, Sydney O'Keefe, Amanda Ottomaniello, Drew Pahl, John Passerini, Riley Pearson, Gianna Perella, Alexander Peterson, Samantha Phillips, Duncan Phillips, Helen Phu, Natalie Rauh, Melina Reid, Alexandria Rempp, Alison Renaud, Joselyn Rivera, Paul Rivera, Kelly Roberts, David Rodriguez, Tristin Romano, Jacob Root, Jennifer Rossi, Keith Ruby, Jacqueline Rybinski, Austin Sabadosa, Nicholas Sampson, Ozan Sarpkaya, Carina Savoie, Jillian Scherpa, Melissa Schuler, Anthony Sciarrelli, Charles Sciafani III, Nicholas Scuderi, Austin Seng, Julia Serra, Kyra Slocum, Ian Souder, Victoria Sutherland, Samantha Swistak, Kristina Tran, Emily Tuohy, Allison Wheeler, Emily Whitman, Tyler Wojcik, Laura Wynne, Vladimir Zabedyuk

Shortstop to host PTSO fundraiser

WESTFIELD — The Shortstop Bar & Grill, 99 Springfield St., Westfield, will donate 10 percent of all dine-in and take-out food sales from 4 to 9 p.m. Monday, March 14, to the Agawam High School PTSO. Residents are invited to this fundraising event to support AHS teachers and students.

School Lunch

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

The Agawam High School lunch menu is posted on the school's website.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday, March 7: Chicken nuggets with dipping sauce, whipped potatoes, seasoned carrots, fresh and chilled fruit.
Tuesday, March 8: Hamburger or cheeseburger, lettuce and tomato, Tater Tots, green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.
Wednesday, March 9: Turkey tacos, assorted toppings, black bean and corn salad, lettuce and tomatoes, fresh and chilled fruit, ice cream cup.
Thursday, March 10: French bread pizza, salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.
Friday, March 11: Baked macaroni and cheese, oven baked fries, celery sticks with dip, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST MENU ELEMENTARY BREAKFAST MENU

Monday, March 7: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, cinnamon graham crackers, mozzarella cheese string, juice.
Tuesday, March 8: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted nutri-grain bars, mozzarella cheese string, juice.
Wednesday, March 9: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted muffins, mozzarella cheese string, juice.
Thursday, March 10: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted Trix yogurt, mozzarella cheese string, juice.
Friday, March 11: Pillsbury mini pancakes with syrup for dipping, mozzarella cheese string, 1 percent low-fat milk, juice.



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SPORTS

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Defense-minded Brownies tournament bound

Capture league title

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – While it is always nice to win the last one, the Agawam girls basketball team was happy to finish the regular season not only with a 12-8 record, but their first league title in years.

Thanks to a big win by Minnechaug over East Longmeadow, Agawam's 6-2 Valley Wheel League record held up and the Brownies were league champions.

"I'm not sure when the last time the girls won a league title," said coach Harold Cote. "I think it was when my daughter was still in school."

Agawam has struggled for the past several years, only making the tournament once in the past four years.

The road will also be uphill for the Brownies this year, but they are happy to be involved.

"We have been working hard to get in," said Cote.

The Brownies enter the post-season with a senior-heavy starting lineup and a strong defense. Agawam has also had its share of defeats, most of them coming against the higher-seeded teams in this year's tournament. They have losses against Central and Holyoke, though they managed to steal one from Chicopee Comp



Meghan D'Amours takes a shot.



Bianca Culhane looks for a teammate to pass to. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

TOURNAMENT | page 13



Joe Scibelli Award winner Eric Matland, center, is joined by linemen coach Mason Conlon, left, and Agawam High head coach John Benjamin, right. Matland received the award for being an outstanding offensive lineman at a banquet last Monday night. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Matland named top lineman in Western Mass

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – Eric Matland's name cannot be read in a lot of high school box scores for football. But Matland's contribution to three great varsity teams is not forgotten by his teammates and other coaches in Western Massachusetts.

Matland received the Joe Scibelli Award for the Most Out-

standing Offensive Lineman in the Pioneer Valley.

Ray Ferro, who represents a committee associated with the National Football Foundation's Western Massachusetts chapter, said his committee has been giving an offensive lineman and defensive lineman award for the past few years.

"There are lot of linemen out

MATLAND | page 14

BOYS BASKETBALL

Agawam earns sixth seed in Division 1

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – The Chicopee boys basketball team is hoping to win the Central/West Division 1 Championship this year and will host a quarterfinal game with the No. 2 seed at 16-4.

The Pacers will host Pope Francis on March 5 at 4 p.m. among quarterfinals matchups. No. 6 Agawam returns to the play-off picture as they travel to No. 3 Amherst.

The only first round matchup to occur earlier this week is

between Leominster and No. 8 Chicopee Comp. Comp enters the tournament at 15-5, but had a weaker schedule, hurting their Walker rating when seeds were announced last Saturday afternoon at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

If Comp can get by Leominster, they would go to No. 1 Putnam on March 4.

Like the girls, the Division 2 field is very small with Tantasqua and Quabbin both qualifying in the six-team field.

The Warriors earned the No. 2 seed at 18-2 and will sit for more

than a week with an automatic bid to the semifinal round. The Warriors will face either Taconic or Pittsfield sometime next week.

Quabbin will travel to Longmeadow for a quarterfinal game on March 4. Quabbin is No. 6 with a 12-8 record.

The Division 3 field has 12 teams involved. Among them, Palmer has earned the No. 3 seed with an excellent 17-3 season. They are waiting for the winner of the No. 6 Mount Greylock and No. 11 Frontier matchup to find out

BOYS BASKETBALL | page 13

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lady Brownies draw Sci-Tech for tourney

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – The road to the Central/West Massachusetts girls basketball championships began earlier this week, with seeds being announced last Saturday in a meeting held at Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Central earned the top seed in Division 1 with a dominant season. But Chicopee Comp and Holyoke will be vying for the chance to go to the finals and

try to knock down the Golden Eagles.

Central went 16-4, but none of those losses came in the region. The Golden Eagles played out of state competition early in the year before returning to the region and dominating all the competition.

Comp had an excellent year with a 15-5 record. They capped off the season when they defeated Holyoke in a non-league game last Wednesday night. Comp received the No. 2 seed while Holyoke will

go No. 3 at 13-7. Comp will host a quarterfinal on March 3 against either East Longmeadow or rival Chicopee.

The Agawam girls basketball entered the Division 1 Tournament for the first time in a few years, seeded at No. 6 and opening up the tournament against Sci-Tech in a first round game. They went 12-8 this season prided themselves on great defense. But they will need to find a way to

GIRLS BASKETBALL | page 15

Sports



Allison Wheeler fakes and looks to move to her left.

TOURNAMENT ■ from page 12

earlier this season. The Colts are the No. 2 seed. To close out the regular season, Agawam was defeated 46-30 by East Longmeadow. The Spartans own two wins over Agawam. Defense was on full display during the first half. Both teams managed just four points in the first quarter, and the Spartans pulled ahead by four points near halftime. The Spartans defense outplayed Agawam's in the second, and Agawam had no answer as the Spartans pulled away with 18 fourth quarter points. Playing on senior night, Agawam's Meghan D'Amours scored 11 and Christie Mirski had nine points. The loss snapped a four-game winning streak that led to Agawam's clinching a tournament spot. Agawam also defeated Westfield. 44-39, last Friday. The Brownies were scheduled to face Sci-Tech in the opening round of the tournament. Agawam is the No. 6 seed and had a home game as a result. They would travel to No. 3 Holyoke on March 3 if they get past the Cybercats. Sci-Tech went 13-7 this year. The two teams have not played each other in the last eight years. Agawam's last playoff game was a 75-72 loss against Pittsfield in 2013.

BOYS BASKETBALL ■ from page 12

their quarterfinal opponent for March 4. In Division 4, Granby and Quaboag have both earned first-round home games. The Rams will be the No. 2 seed at 12-8 and face the winner of the Turners Falls and Pioneer Valley Christian first round game. Quaboag is No. 3 at 8-11 and faces the winner of the Hampden Charter School of Science and McCann Tech first round matchup. Hampden Charter is the No. 6 seed at 16-4. They enter the tournament for the first time in the school's history with their first round matchup against McCann. Tournament Director Lou Conte said the first round matchups were scheduled to be held on Tuesday, March 1. However, with primary elections scheduled for that day, some matchups could be changed. Quarterfinals were scheduled for Friday, March 4 with a few matchups like Chicopee and Pope Francis moved to other days.

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Bianca Culhane goes for a shot.



Christie Mirski plays defense on the East Longmeadow end of the court.

COLLEGE

Desrosiers named Second Team All-CACC

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – Sophomore Tyler Desrosiers, of Agawam, of the Post University men's basketball team was named Second Team All-Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference on Friday. The all-conference teams are voted on by the league's 14 head coaches. Desrosiers leads the Eagles and is ninth in the CACC at 16.0 points per game. This season he proved to be one of the top shooters in the conference with a league-leading 74 made 3-pointers. He is sixth in the CACC in three-point percentage (38.3) and free-throw percentage (81.3). The sophomore scored in double-digits in 22 games this season and poured in a season-high 29 points in Tuesday's victory over Dominican. He was 12-of-13 from the line and made five threes against the Chargers.

Monahan close to Owls school record

BOSTON - Westfield State junior distance runner and Agawam graduate Ashley Monahan came within 0.11 seconds of setting a new school record in the 800 meters when she finished in a time of 2 minutes, 16.17 seconds at the New England indoor Track and Field Championships at Boston University. Jess Silva set the current record of 2:16.06 in 2004.

Agawam High School athletics to induct first Hall of Fame class

AGAWAM - The Agawam High School Athletic Department is proud and excited to announce the induction of the inaugural class of The Agawam High School Athletic Hall of Fame. AHS has a long and proud history which encompasses many sports. The AHS Athletic Hall of Fame Committee was formed earlier this year to recognize and honor those who have made a significant athletic contribution to Agawam High School. The Hall of Fame Committee is looking forward to a community effort to help make the A.H.S. Athletic Hall of Fame a tribute to the athletes, coaches, teams and contributors who have given so much to the high school and to the Town of Agawam through sport. The presentation of the first Hall of Fame class will be held at the Agawam High School on Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016. Details will follow. Effective immediately, The Agawam High Athletic Hall of Fame Committee will be accepting completed nomination packets for athletes, teams and contributors who have distinguished themselves in athletics at Agawam High School as well as in their college and professional lives. Nomination form directions must be followed exactly with all necessary information included. Incomplete nomination forms will not be accepted, so please be as accurate and complete as possible. Nomination forms are due on or before April 1, 2016, to be considered for induction into the AHS Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2016. Nomination packets are available at the Agawam High School Athletic Department Office and on line at: http://www.agawampublicschools.org/pages/Agawam_PS/Athletics/Athletics.

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Sports

BOYS BASKETBALL

Three Agawam players selected to 2016 Western Massachusetts Senior All-Star Games

D’Amours, Mirski for girls; Maccio for boys

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced today the team rosters for the 2016 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Games. The 2016 All-Star event will be held on Friday, March 25 on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams at the Hall of Fame. A total of 60 players were selected from different divisions within the region to participate in three games that will showcase the top seniors in their final high school contest.

From Agawam: Meghan D’Amours and Christie Mrski were picked for Division 1, 2, 3 and 4 Girls Team 1, while Joe Maccio was named to the Division 1 Boys Team 1.

“The Basketball Hall of Fame is pleased to host the top players in Western Massachusetts as they conclude their outstanding high school careers,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. “The annual Western Massachusetts Senior All-Star Games allow us to recognize the basketball talent that originates from our region, the birthplace of basketball. We couldn’t be more proud of these fantastic student-athletes.”

A committee made up of local coaches and

media members that represent each division on the boys and girls side selected the teams. The players will be divided into six teams: two girls teams, two boys teams of Division 2, 3 and 4 players and two boys teams of Division 1 players. Only graduating seniors are eligible for the All-Star Games.

The first game of the evening will feature the Division 2, 3 and 4 boys teams at 5:30 p.m., followed by the girls matchup at 7 p.m. The final game of the evening will showcase the boys Division 1 teams at 8:30 p.m.

For the sixth year, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame will recognize one boy and one girl as the Western Massachusetts Players of the Year. A special presentation will be made to the recipients during halftime. A panel of local media members selects the award winners, who are recognized for their achievements on the court, in addition to their sportsmanship and character off the court.

Tickets for the All-Star game will be available at the Hall of Fame box office the night of the games and will be good for all three games that evening.

MATLAND ■ from page 12

there that work really hard and don’t necessarily get the accolades they deserve,” said Ferro. “We enjoy giving these awards out.”

Matland was chosen among 16 applicants, and could have received either award, his coach John Benjamin said.

“Eric was a lineman on both offensive and defense,” said Benjamin. “He played a lot of snaps for us this season and he works really hard to protect our players.”

Ferro said Matland was impressive with his athletic ability, leadership, and his sportsmanship on the field. Agawam has been a great team, going 27-5 during the three years and reaching the Western Massachusetts Division 4 championship game each of the last three years.

“He was a tremendous player for us and he really helped us in our run the past few years,” said Benjamin. “He is always a great kid and works hard. He has great footwork. He goes to camps and works to get better.”

Benjamin has known Matland for a long time, having coached him at the youth level, and then at the freshman level prior to Benjamin becom-

ing the varsity coach.

Matland was named to the varsity in his sophomore year.

The lineman said he was taken aback when he found out he was being given the award at a banquet held Feb. 22 at Salvatore’s Restaurant in Springfield.

“There are a lot of great linemen out there in Western Mass.,” said Matland. “I was so surprised to learn I was chosen.”

He also found the award ironic, considering he is heading to Western New England University this fall to play football as a defensive nose tackle.

“I actually was mostly known for playing defense,” said Matland. “But they needed me to play the line on offense as well.”

He called his time with the Brownies unbelievable. Even though Agawam never came away with a sectional title, he had an amazing time with his teammates and coaches.

Matland is looking forward to college and continuing to play the line.

Western Mass Basketball All-Stars

Division 2, 3 and 4 Boys Team 1

Raphael Coleman – Easthampton
Justin Farrick – Frontier
Colby Forbush – Granby
Peter King – Longmeadow
Tyler Boyle – Longmeadow
Levin Dupre – Mohawk
Brad Hastings – Pioneer Valley
Arvon Gordon – Renaissance
Kevin Banas – Smith Academy
Jalen Sanders – Turners Falls

Division 1, 2, 3 and 4 Girls Team 2

Emily Casella – Athol
Molly Moulton – Drury
Chelsea Moussette – Hampshire
Madi Ryan – Hoosac Valley
Olivia Shapiro – Longmeadow
Miranda Couture – Monson
Ashley Higgins – Smith Academy
Lexi Gawron – South Hadley
Allie Hunt – Pittsfield
Sadie Simons – Ware

Division 2, 3 and 4 Boys Team 2

Jason Feliciano – Hampden Charter
Jameson Coughlan – Hoosac Valley
Matt Koperniak – Hoosac Valley
Brett Morrison – Hopkins
Josh Sampson – Lee
Patrick Colvin – Lenox
Zach Ronnow – Mount Greylock
Connor McDonough – Pittsfield
Treyvon Ringgold – Taconic
Cole Morrison – Wahconah

Division 1 Boys Team 1

Joe Maccio – Agawam
Chevon Cote – Chicopee
Jake Midura – Chicopee
Dario Zamboni – Chicopee
Luqman Abdur-Rauf – Putnam
Keiayvin Hayes – Putnam
Tyonne Malone – Putnam
Brian Callahan – Pope Francis
Anthony Reynolds – Pope Francis
Ed Kelly – West Springfield

Division 1, 2, 3 and 4 Girls Team 1

Meghan D’Amours – Agawam
Christie Mirski – Agawam
Jamie Staples – Amherst
Jada Glasgow – Amherst
Sharon Robinson – Central
Molly Willette – Chicopee Comp
Alyssa Stefanelli – Chicopee Comp
Mackenzie Pratt – Holyoke
Alexa Morin – Westfield
Rudi Spano – West Springfield

Division 1 Boys Team 2

Devante McCall – Amherst
Geovanni Kraus – Central
Bruce Carey – Chicopee Comp
Eric Perez – Chicopee Comp
Steve Velazquez – Chicopee Comp
AJ Allen – East Longmeadow
Riley Held – East Longmeadow
Justin Garcia – East Longmeadow
Chris Lopez – Sci-Tech
John O’Brien – Westfield

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Agawam Advertiser News, please email mballway@turley.com.

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Church Directory

AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

745 Main St., Agawam
786-7111
Pastor: Rev. Greg E. Dawson
office@AgawamCong.com
www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com

SUNDAY SERVICES at 10 a.m.
Communion on the first Sunday of the month
Church school is in session and fellowship coffee hour follows the service.
“A place to call home ~ A people to call family”

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

459 Mill St., Feeding Hills
413-786-4174
Pastor: Ken Blanchard
email agawamumc@gmail.com
www.agawamworship.org

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday 10 a.m.
Holy Communion served 1st and 3rd Sundays.
Coffee hour after worship; Bible Study after fellowship.
Prepare Meal for Samaritan Inn Homeless Shelter 2nd Saturdays 2-5 p.m.
Offsite Worship:
Heritage East, 1st Mondays, 11 a.m.
Heritage North, 1st Tuesdays, 11 a.m.
Heritage Woods, 1st Mondays, 11 a.m.
Country Estates, 2nd and 5th Thursdays, 11 a.m.

BETHANY ASSEMBLY OF GOD

580 Main St., Agawam
(413) 789-2930
www.bethany-ag.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard E. Adams

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday 9am & 10:45am
Christian Education offered during both services.
Nightlife Contemporary Service: Sunday 6 p.m.
Wednesday Family Night: 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF REDEMPTION

50 Maple St., Agawam
(413) 304-2313
churchor.org

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday Services, 10 a.m.
Sunday school for children and nursery for younger children
Community Night: The first Sunday of each month at 5 p.m. Free dinner served.

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH

370 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam
(413) 786-1681
jesussaves.7@comcast.net
Church Website: www.faithbible -church.org
Pastor: Rick Donofrio

SERVICES
Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer
Meeting and Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

“An Open and Affirming Congregation.”
21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
P.O. Box 264
(413) 786-5061
fhccucc@comcast.net
Pastor: The Rev. Robert C. Donaldson

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
Church School 10:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10 a.m.
Infant and child care provided.
Handicap accessible.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF AGAWAM

760 Main St., Agawam
churchedie@comcast.net
www.firstbaptistagawam.org
Pastor: Rev. George Thomson

SUNDAY SERVICES
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School (grades K - 5) following Children’s Message until 10:45
Youth Group meets at 11 a.m.
Coffee & Conversation following worship service

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

152 South Westfield St.
Feeding Hills
789-2026

SUNDAY SERVICES
Men’s & Women’s Bible Study Groups and Children’s Sunday School Worship Service at 10 a.m. Children’s Church for age 3 to high school takes place after the service. Nursery available for younger children. A time for fellowship after the service.

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

522 Springfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030
413-821-0937
Senior Elders Bob and Barbara Olmstead
Email: office@lighthousema.com
Web: www.lighthousema.com

WORSHIP SERVICE
Saturday evening Celebration at 6 to 8 PM

Saturday evening Prayer from 5 – 5:45 PM
1-hour classes for children ages 3 to 12 during service
Nursery available for younger children
SMALL GROUP MEETINGS in homes during the week
(call or see website for more information)

MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH

522 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
Feeding Hills, MA
478-9484
David L. Short, Pastor

Sunday Family Bible Study Hour, 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service, 11 a.m.
Sunday Night Service, 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer, 7 p.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH

1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
(413) 786-8200
www.SacredHeartFeedingHills.org
Fr. Steven Amo

WEEKLY SERVICES
Lord’s Day Masses: Saturday, 4 p.m.; Sunday, 7:15 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
Confessions: Saturdays, 3:15 p.m.
Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.
Special Devotions: Perpetual Novena to the Sacred Heart following the Friday 9 a.m. Mass

ST. DAVID’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Harvey Hill
699 Springfield St.
Feeding Hills
(413) 786-6133
saintdavid@comcast.net
www.stdavidsgawam.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday 8 a.m. Rite I and Holy Eucharist
10 a.m. Rite II and Holy Eucharist
Sunday school and Nursery during 10 a.m. service
Coffee hour following the 10 a.m. service
Handicap Accessible

OFFSITE WORSHIP
Church without Walls, 2nd Sunday of the month at 12 p.m. at
Parish Pantry, West Springfield
Holy Eucharist and distribution of bag lunches

ST. JOHN’S CHURCH

Fr. Brian McGrath, Pastor
823 Main St., Agawam
786-8105
office@stjohnagawam.org
www.stjohnagawam.org

SCHEDULE OF MASSES
Saturdays: 4 p.m. (English), 6 p.m. (Extraordinary Latin Rite)
Sundays: 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Weekdays: Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m.
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
CONFESSION: Saturdays: 3 to 3:45 p.m., or by appointment.



Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote free events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 413-786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Thursday, March 3

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, 833 Main St., Agawam, will host a speaker series beginning at 7 p.m., "Is there an alternative to abortion with an unplanned pregnancy?" Find out about the alternative to abortion and resources available. The public is invited.

A LENTEN BOOK REFLECTION, "TESTIFY TO THE LIGHT," a spiritual biography of Andy Gustafson, at First Church of Christ, Congregational, 81 High St., Suffield, at 7 p.m. The study will be facilitated by the pastors of the church, the Rev. Bridget Fidler and the Rev. Diann Bailey. All are welcome. For information about the book, call the church office at 860-668-7223.

LUIS LEE, SENECA ARTIST, member of the Iroquois Six Nations Seneca Beaver Clan and Suffield resident, and the Rev. Tom Carr, pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Suffield, will share their reflections in a presentation on the spirituality of caring for creation and each other at 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 446 Mountain Road, Suffield.

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "Commissioning a Classical Work in the 21st Century: Bringing Kenneth Fuchs' 'The Spiritualist' to Life" featuring Kevin Rhodes, SSO music director, and Kenneth Fuchs, UConn professor of music composition, at 12:15 in the Museum of Fine Arts at 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call (413) 263-6800, ext. 488.

Friday, March 4

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL'S APPLAUSE SERIES continues at 7 p.m. when the Millennium Magic Chorus presents a concert at the Agawam Senior Center at 954 Main St. This award-winning ensemble features women of all ages and all walks of life. This and all Applause Series events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.agawamcc.org.

THE SPRINGFIELD SCIENCE MUSEUM'S large rooftop telescope will be open for public sky gazing at 7:30 p.m. as part of the "Stars Over Springfield" observatory series, rain or shine. Admission is \$3 for adults; \$2 for children 17 and under. For more information, call 413-263-6800 ext. 318.

Saturday, March 5

THE AGAWAM LIONS CLUB COMEDY NIGHT FUNDRAISER at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 460 Granby Road, Chicopee. Doors open at 6 p.m., followed by the show at 7 p.m. Cash bar and several raffles. Those attending are invited to bring snacks. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Contact Shawn Disley at 413-687-0268 or dizzy-dizz@gmail.com or visit agawamlions.org.

ANNUAL SPRING "TAVERN LUNCHEON" fundraiser at Agawam's historic Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main St. with servings at 11:30 a.m. and 1 pm. Dona-

tion of \$12 per meal suggested and reservations are required. Call 413-786-9421 for more information or to reserve a seat. Take-out meals available.

VFW POST 872 will hold a corned beef and cabbage dinner to raise money to add a wing to the town's war memorial for Iraq, Afghanistan and Gulf War from 4-7 p.m. at Post 872 at 151 Point Grove Road, Southwick. Tickets are \$15 per person for adults and \$6 for children under the age of 12. For more information, call 413-875-5743.

DR. SEUSS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Springfield Museums, 21 Edwards St., Springfield. General admission \$18, adults; \$12, seniors and college students; \$9.50 children 3 to 17; free for children under three and museum members. Fee provides admission to all four Museums. For information, call 413-263-6800, ext. 489 or visit springfieldmuseums.org.

Sunday, March 6

THE FRIENDS OF THE FARM AT HILLTOP and the Suffield Land Conservancy will host a program on how to build a bluebird nesting box from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall of First Church of Christ Congregational, 81 High St. in Suffield. Open to adults and families. Children should be accompanied by an adult. The program is free, but a donation is appreciated to continue this work. Space is limited and registration is required prior to March 4. To register, call 860-758-0668.

Monday, March 7

E.B'S RESTAURANT AT 385 WALNUT ST. EXT., Agawam, will host "Give Back Monday." The Boys and Girls Club of West Springfield will be the recipient of 10 percent of the day's proceeds, with the exception of alcohol. From open to close, all food and soft drink sales contribute to this fundraiser, including dine-in, take-out and delivery.

THE SUFFIELD WOMAN'S CLUB will host Emergency Aid Association Executive Director Janet Frechette at 12:30 p.m. in the Father Ted Hall at Sacred Heart Church, 446 Mountain Road, Suffield. There will be a light luncheon prior to the guest speaker. Attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable item for the EAA pantry.

Wednesday, March 9

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

Thursday, March 10

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, 833 Main St., Agawam, will host a speaker series beginning at 7 p.m., "Is assisted suicide really death with dignity? What are end of life directives. What about withholding treatment?" The public is invited.

BIG BAND ERA returns with Premier Swing Band from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 1552 Westfield St, West Springfield. Free and open to the public. Dance lesson at 6:30 p.m., band at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.PremierEntertains.com, call David Neill at 413-686-5027, or email tbm8@aol.com.

A LENTEN BOOK REFLECTION, "TESTIFY TO THE LIGHT," a spiritual biography of Andy Gustafson, at First Church of Christ, Congregational, 81 High St., Suffield, at 7 p.m. The study will be facilitated by the pastors of the church, the Rev. Bridget Fidler and the Rev. Diann

Bailey. All are welcome. For information about the book, call the church office at 860-668-7223.

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "Irish Fiddle" featuring Eileen Markland, violinist, violist, fiddler, at 12:15 in the Museum of Fine Arts at 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call (413) 263-6800, ext. 488.

Friday, March 11

THE 17TH ANNUAL QUIET DAY, a Lenten tradition at First Church of Christ, Congregational, 81 High St., Suffield, from 1 to 7 p.m., with a worship service at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office at 860-668-7223.

Saturday, March 12

BENEFIT FOR LANDEN PALATINO, Agawam American Legion 185, 478 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Two sessions - noon to 3 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. Tickets, \$20 for adults; \$7 for children. Buffet, clowns, magicians, a disc jockey and crafts for children. All proceeds to benefit the Palatino family. Eight-year-old Landen has been diagnosed with glioblastoma, a fast-growing brain tumor and has extensive treatment ahead. For tickets, call Jenny Wright at 413-250-5127.

Sunday, March 13

THE WEST SPRINGFIELD COIN CLUB will meet at 7 p.m. in the Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Elm St., West Springfield. A special coin topic will be presented and discussed. Refreshments available. Guests welcome. For more information, call Peter Setian at 413-596-9871.

"TINY HOUSES: A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO HOME OWNERSHIP," at 6:30 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. To register, call 413-789-1550, ext. 4 or register online at www.agawamlibrary.org.

Tuesday, March 15

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL will meet at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The meeting is open to the public. A great opportunity exists with the Agawam Cultural Council for anyone with an interest in providing diverse cultural events for the town.

Wednesday, March 16

THE AGAWAM SAINT PATRICK COMMITTEE will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the lower level classroom at St. John's Parish Center, 833 Main St., Agawam. New members are welcome.

Thursday, March 17

A LENTEN BOOK REFLECTION, "TESTIFY TO THE LIGHT," a spiritual biography of Andy Gustafson, at First Church of Christ, Congregational, 81 High St., Suffield, at 7 p.m. The study will be facilitated by the pastors of the church, the Rev. Bridget Fidler and the Rev. Diann Bailey. All are welcome. For information about the book, call the church office at 860-668-7223.

Saturday, March 19

AN ALL-CHURCH TAG SALE at the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The tag sale will include a bake sale, fresh popcorn, clothes and accessories, toys and games, books, kitchen articles, household items, furniture and more.

ONGOING

THE UPSTAIRS GALLERY AND GLASS CASES at the Agawam Public Library contain 68 photos that were juried into the Friends of the Agawam Public Library Sixth Open Juried Photography Show. The show will run to Feb. 26. Brochures are available in the gallery area at the library that describe the photographs.

GRANDPARENT'S PLAYGROUP Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. This free infant and toddler playgroup features music and movement, fostering children's interactions and sharing skills. Open to all grandparents and their grandchildren. Follows school schedule.

MOM 2 MOM takes place the second Tuesday of every month October through June, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St. A roundtable discussion hosted by a local "veteran" mom, this is a great way to have further conversation on recent café themes and parent education events, celebrate parenting and receive encouragement for the trials.

THE AGAWAM ST. PATRICK COMMITTEE meets the third Wednesday of each month, September through June, at 6:30 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Rectory conference room, 833 Main St., Agawam. For information on how to join, call Vera Conway at 413-786-3247 or email Rosemary Sandlin at rosemarysandlin@gmail.com

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. No registration needed.

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers "Crochet Club" every other Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This club is open to all needle-workers, including crocheters, knitters, quilters, and embroiderers. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

A BREAST CANCER AND MASTECTOMY SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

AN ALL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

A BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP meets the second Wednesday of each month at Heritage Woods Assisted Facility, 462 Main St., Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at 888-613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.

GIRLS BASKETBALL ■ from page 12

generate more offense if they are going to get past the teams ahead of them.

No. 9 Minnechaug is 7-13 and traveled to Northampton Monday. If victorious, they will go to No. 1 Central on Thursday night.

The Division 2 field is small, with Belchertown earning the second seed with a 16-4 record. They automatically move to the semifinals next week to face Pittsfield or Commerce. To reach the semifinals against Longmeadow, Tantasqua will have to get through North Middlesex on March 3.

South Hadley's amazing 19-1 season landed the Tigers top seed in Division 3. They will face the winner of the Mount Greylock/Athol first round matchup on March 3. The Tigers have only lost to No. 2 Hoosac this season. They split two games with the Hurricanes this year. South Hadley swept No. 3 Hampshire this year also, beating the Red Raiders in the final two games of the regular season to go a perfect 8-0 to win the Central League.

Southwick, which plays a weaker schedule, went 15-5 and is seeded No. 10. They faced Granby in the opening round and the winning team will head to Hoosac Valley on March 3.

Ware's 17-3 record tops Division 4's bracket. They will await the result of the Pioneer and Turners first round matchup to find out who it will host on March 3.

Other first round matchups include No. 4 North Brookfield hosting No. 13 Smith Vocational. Pathfinder qualified for the tournament on the final day of the regular season and head to Quaboag to face the Cougars. The winner there will face the North Brookfield/Smith winner in the quarterfinals on March 3.

Monson received the No. 3 seed at 12-8 and will face the winner of No. 6 Lee and No. 11 Franklin Tech.

Tournament Director Lou Conte said preliminary round games were scheduled for Monday and quarterfinals are set for Thursday, March 3. All games are supposed to start at 7 p.m. unless they are otherwise agreed to by the individual schools.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports editor for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com or by calling 413-283-8393 ext. 258.

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Agawam Senior Center

Lunch Menu

Monday, March 7: Beef vegetable soup, grilled chicken cutlet on a roll, lettuce and tomato, apples.

Tuesday, March 8: Stuffed shells and meatballs, Caesar salad, mixed fruit.

Wednesday, March 9: Sweet and sour meatballs, oven brown rice, broccoli, peaches.

Thursday, March 10: Cheese omelets, home fries, muffins, orange juice, pudding.

Friday, March 11: Corned beef, cabbage and carrots, potatoes, Irish soda bread, shamrock shake cupcakes.

Calendar of Events

Monday, March 7: 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9 a.m., Painting Club; 9:30 a.m., free hearing screening with Ear Masters, line dancing; 10 a.m., Fallon Insurance representative available; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., bingo; 2-4 p.m., monthly day dance; 5:30 p.m., Zumba; pitch tournament.

Tuesday, March 8: 9 a.m., exercise, knitting class,

sewing class; 10 a.m., Computer Tech Club; 12:30 p.m., mah jongg, movie ("Patch Adams"), ladies billiards, Reiki with Carlene (call 413-525-7345 for appt.); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 2:30 p.m., chorus meets; 4:30 p.m., yoga; 6 p.m., beginner line dance, evening sewing, art class with Barbara Cohen; 7 p.m., Garden Club meeting.

Wednesday, March 9: 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., scrabble; 1:30 p.m., Golden Age Club Chapter 1 meeting; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold; 6:30 p.m., Turnverein chorus.

Thursday, March 10: 8:30 a.m., AARP tax assistance; 9 a.m., exercise, 9:30 a.m., quilting; 10 a.m., line dancing; 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., pitch, free blood pressure check with Sherry; 1:30 p.m., Melody Band practice; 6:30 p.m., evening pitch, evening line dancing.

Friday, March 11: 8 a.m., yoga; 9:15 a.m., all media art class; 9:30 a.m., tai chi; 11:30 a.m., St. Patrick's luncheon (\$6); noon, canasta; 1 p.m., pitch, cribbage; 4 p.m., poker.

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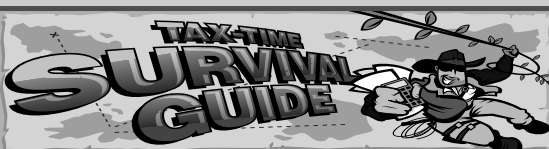
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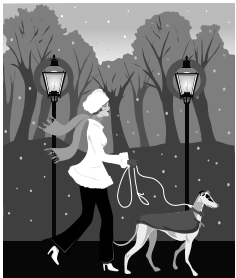
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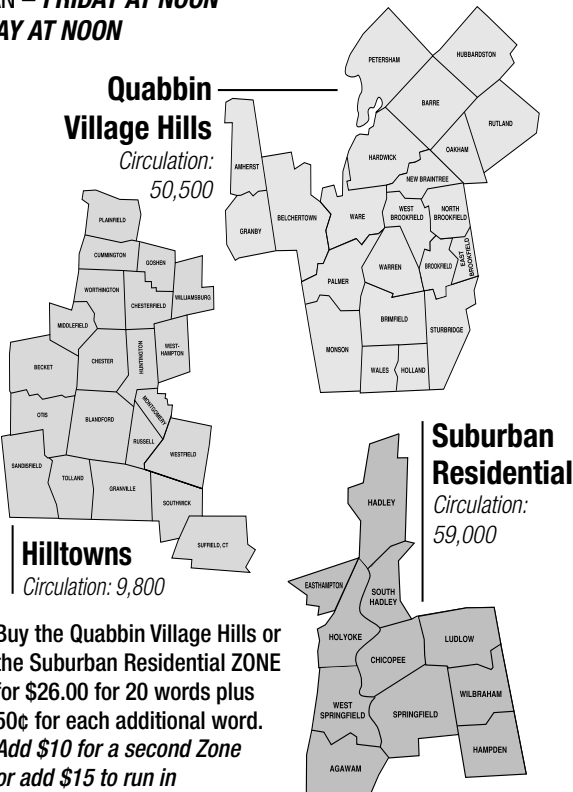
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Our Town

Happy birthday, Charlie



Mayor Richard Cohen presents Charlie Parker, of Agawam, a citation from the town on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Cohen was among those to attend a celebration held Feb. 21 at Kaptain Jimmy's in Agawam. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ribbon cut at 'Birches'



Mayor Richard Cohen performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Heritage Woods Senior Living to officially open The Birches, its new 18-unit Alzheimer's care neighborhood. Heritage Woods is at 462 Main St., Agawam, and is the area's longest running assisted living community. From left, Maxine Illingsworth, marketing director; Theresa Bollea, executive director; Nicole Wallace, admissions director; state Sen. Don Humason Jr.; Cohen; town Planning Director Marc Strange; City Councilor Richard Theroux; resident Irene Kulpinski; and Julie D'Avanzo, Homestead Program director. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tripping

Monthly: Mohegan Sun Casino trip with the Friends of the Agawam Senior Center. Trips for 2016 are March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, Aug. 22, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 28, Dec. 26. \$25 per person. Call Penny at Friends of the Agawam Senior Center, 413-519-7223.

Feb. 29: Agawam Candlepin Bowl (small balls). Leave the Southwick Senior Center at 11 a.m. Lunch at Friendly's at your own expense, followed by three games of bowling. \$12 per person. Sign up at the Senior Center, 454 College Highway or call the office at 413-569-5498.

March 5: U.S. Navy Band at Symphony Hall, 7 p.m. \$10 per person includes pizza, salad and a drink at Red Rose Pizza on Main Street in Springfield before the concert. The bus will leave the Senior Center at 3:45 p.m. Sign up at the Senior Center, 454 College Highway or call the office at 413-569-5498.

March 5: Bus trip to the Old Deerfield Spring Craft Fair at Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Leave the Southwick Senior Center at 10 a.m. After the fair, travelers will stop for lunch at Take 5 Restaurant in Feeding Hills at their own expense. \$7 per person. Sign up at the Senior Center or call the office at 413-569-5498.

March 9: Yale New Haven Peabody Museum. Leave the Southwick Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. Bus will stop at Cafe' Romeo in New Haven for breakfast or lunch at travelers' expense. \$12 per person. Sign up at the Senior Center, 454 College Highway or call the office at 413-569-5498.

March 13: Mohegan Sun day trip. \$33 per person includes \$15 food voucher, \$15 free bet and driver's tip. Call Agawam Lioness Club members Pat at 413-786-1782 or Rose at 413-786-5134.

March 15: St. John's Travelers to Chez Josef in Agawam for show featuring Tony Kenny direct from Ireland. \$59 per person includes lunch. Call Emile Cote at 413-335-9440.

March 19: Mohegan Sun. Leave the Enfield Mall commuter parking lot (next to Macy's, behind Wendy's) at noon and return at approximately 10 p.m. \$40 per person, Italian cocktail tasting on the bus ride as well as a \$15 food voucher and \$15 free spin on the big wheel. Call Stephanie at 860-305-1175 or email the Italian Cultural Center of Western Mass. at icwm@comcast.net. Payment must be received by March 11.

March 21-24: Ocean City, Md., for "Branson at the Beach." \$798 per person, double occupancy; \$778 per person, triple; \$998, single. Call Emile Cote at St. John's Travelers, 413-335-9440.

April 8: Maple & More in the Berkshires. \$72 per person. A trip through the Berkshires, an all-you-can-eat breakfast with fresh made maple syrup, wine tasting at Hilltop Orchards in Richmond and an afternoon stop. The bus will depart at approximately 5:30 p.m. Call Emile Cote at St. John's Travelers, 413-335-9440.

April 11: Newport Playhouse and Cabaret for the day for dinner theater with a buffet, followed by a short play, "One Slight Hitch," and a comedic cabaret show. \$92, due by March 4. Call George Wheeler, Southwick Travelers group leader, at 413-569-3854.

April 12: Bennington, Vt. \$72 per person. Call Penny Hardick, Friends of the Agawam Senior Center, 413-519-7223.

April 22-25: Virginia Beach. \$889 per person, double occupancy; \$799 per person, triple occupancy; \$1,149 per person, single occupancy. Deposit of \$100 due at sign-up. Cancellation protection available. Call Emile Cote at St. John's Travelers, 413-335-9440.

April 24-29: Las Vegas, Nevada. \$869 per person/double, triple; \$1,069 per person, single occupancy. Call Penny Hardick, Friends of the Agawam Senior Center, 413-519-7223.

April 30: West Point Academy. \$114 per person includes the famous U.S. Military Cadet Review, buffet lunch at the Thayer Hotel on the grounds of the U.S. Military Academy, a guided tour of West Point, the Cadet Chapel, Trophy Point and the Hudson River Lookout, and a stop for shopping at the Visitors Center. Call Emile Cote at St. John's Travelers, 413-335-9440.

May 6-14: Alaska inside passage cruise. 10 days, nine nights sailing from

Seattle, Wash. Call Emile Cote with St. John's Travelers, 413-335-9440.

May 17-19: Amish Country, Lancaster, Pa. \$419 per person, double occupancy; \$397 per person, triple occupancy; \$507 per person, single occupancy. Call Penny Hardick, Friends of the Agawam Senior Center, 413-519-7223.

May 24: Will and Anthony Nunziata at Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, Conn. Broadway meets the music of old Italy. \$94 due by April 18. Call George Wheeler, Southwick Travelers group leader, at 413-569-3854.

June 6-19: Escorted Alaska land and cruise trip will include six nights on land and seven nights on the Holland America cruise ship Zaandam. Call George Wheeler, Southwick Travelers group leader, at 413-569-3854.

June 14-16: Lancaster, Pa., for a showing of "Sampson and Delilah." \$448 per person, double occupancy; \$428 per person, triple; \$598, single. \$50 deposit is required. Call Emile Cote at St. John's Travelers, 413-335-9440.

June 30: Adams National Park in Quincy for guided Park Service tours of the birthplaces of John Quincy Adams and his father John Adams. Lunch in

Boston at the Chart House Restaurant and a visit to the North End, Boston's Little Italy. \$88 due by May 23. Call George Wheeler, Southwick Travelers group leader, at 413-569-3854.

July 21: Lobster dinner at Mike's Clam Shack in Wells, Maine, followed by a guided driving tour of Kennebunk and Kennebunkport past the Bush estate. \$97 due June 14. Call George Wheeler, Southwick Travelers group leader, at 413-569-3854.

Aug. 16: Lighthouse cruise on Narragansett Bay, R.I. Lunch at Captain Jack's. \$97 due by July 8. Call George Wheeler, Southwick Travelers group leader, at 413-569-3854.

Sept. 23: Essex Steam Train for a hot lunch in a 1920s Pullman diner car, and Becky Thatcher Riverboat cruise on the Connecticut River. \$98 due by Aug. 16. Call George Wheeler, Southwick Travelers group leader, at 413-569-3854.

Oct. 3-12: "Britain Sampler" trip hosted by Westfield State Alumni Assoc. \$3,999 per person twin occupancy. \$400 deposit due at booking; full balance due 75 days before departure.

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Grant tour



Local legislators went on a tour of Bridgeport National Bindery in Agawam on Feb. 26 to learn more about the book business and its receipt of a state workforce grant for employee training. Pictured, from left, are Jim Larsen, Bruce Jacobsen, Johnathan Jacobsen and Michele Brennan, all from Bridgeport National; state Sen. Don Humason; state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga; and Kent Larson and Dan Swiecanski from Bridgeport National. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Leonard House luncheon this Saturday

The annual spring “Tavern Luncheon” fundraiser at Agawam’s historic Captain Charles Leonard House returns Saturday, March 5. A hot lunch of chicken à la king will be served at two seatings, 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. The main course, dessert and coffee will be served by the Captain Leonard House’s all-volunteer board of trustees. A donation of \$12 per meal is suggested and reservations are required. Call 413-786-9421 for more information or

to reserve a seat. Take-out meals are also available.

The luncheon will also feature an accompanying sale of quality linen, china, silver and collectibles. The proceeds of the luncheon and sale will aid in the preservation of the National Register-listed Captain Leonard House, at 663 Main St., Agawam. For more information, call 413-786-9421 or visit www.captainleonardhouse.com.

Health, Police depts. can help with disposal of medical waste

The Agawam Health Department would like to remind all residents that home sharps, as well as unopened packages of hypodermic needles and lancets, should not be disposed of in solid municipal waste, including household waste, and will be collected and disposed of in accordance with state regulations. Residents are not allowed to dispose of unopened, or used syringes, needles and lancets in the household trash, regardless if it is confined to a puncture proof container or not.

With this in mind, the Health Department is pleased to offer a safe alternative for disposing of used needles and syringes. Residents may obtain a medically approved sharp container for free for a limited time, including disposal upon return of the filled container to the Agawam Health Department at Town Hall, 36 Main St., Agawam. Residents may also purchase their own medical sharps container at any medical supply store and return it filled to Agawam Health Department for disposal free of charge. Coffee cans, laundry detergent containers, milk bottles and soda bottles are not approved containers and will not be accepted.

Do not dispose of used needles, syringes, lancets, epipens, or any auto injectors in household trash or recycle bins.

The Agawam Police Department has a kiosk in its lobby at 681 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, for safe disposal of household medications (pills only). The pills can be combined together in one bag if it more convenient; they do not need to be in the pharmacy bottle for disposal.

Liquid medications will not be accepted in the kiosk. They can be combined with coffee grounds or kitty litter and disposed of in the regular trash, in addition to ointments, lotions and inhalers.

Chemo medications will not accepted in the kiosk or household trash. Arrangement for disposal should be made with the treatment clinic.

Cemetery talk



Richard Bastien, center, director of Massachusetts Veterans Cemeteries, met recently with state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, left, and state Sen. Don Humason, to discuss the needs of the cemetery in Agawam and local veterans. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Community invited to Holy Week luncheons

The Agawam Clergy Association will host Holy Week luncheon services Monday through Friday, March 21-25, at Sacred Heart Church, 1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Services will begin at noon. Lunch will be provided at no cost following the service. Offerings will be accepted to feed the hungry in the Pioneer Valley. All are welcome.

Preachers and hosts for lunch are as follows: Monday, March 21, Pastor Greg Dawson, Agawam Congregational Church (preacher), lunch provided by St. John’s Church; Tuesday, March 22, Pastor George Thomson, First Baptist Church; Wednesday, March 23, the Rev. Brian McGrath, St. John the Evangelist Church (preacher), lunch provided by Agawam Congregational Church; Thursday, March 24, Bob Olmstead, Lighthouse Christian Center (preacher), lunch provided by Bethany Assembly of God; Friday, March 25, the Rev. Steve Amo, Sacred Heart Church.

Learn about Cookbook Club on Monday

The Agawam Public Library is starting a monthly Cookbook Club and will hold an information night at 7 p.m. Monday, March 7, for all those interested. A different cookbook will be chosen each month and participants will choose one recipe to make and share. The Cookbook Club will meet Thursdays, April 7, May 5 and June 2, at 6:30 p.m.

To register, call 413-789-1550, ext. 4, or visit www.agawamlibrary.org. Space will be limited in the club, but the information night is open to anyone interested in learning more about it.

The library is at 750 Cooper St., Agawam.

Former St. Pat honorees sought to march again

The Agawam St. Patrick Committee is seeking all past Colleens and court members, as well as any past parade marshal, Anne Sullivan Award and Good Citizenship Award recipients who wish to be in-

cluded in the Sunday, March 20, Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Those interested are asked to contact the committee chairman, Barbara Foley, at 413-789-1414 on or before March 15.

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